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WORLD-RENOWNED EXPERT IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TO SPEAK

CHARLESTON -- Australian scientist Simon Hollamby will share his views on wildlife conservation in Uganda as a guest of Eastern Illinois University's chapter of Sigma Xi national science research society.

Hollamby will speak on "Wildlife Conservation in Uganda, Eastern Africa: Major Problems and a Minor Solution" at 8 p.m. Friday, March 6, in Phipps Hall, 121 Physical Science Building. His talk is open to the public.

Keith Andrew, president of Eastern's chapter of Sigma Xi, said Hollamby will discuss his work with political leaders in Uganda to establish an environmental conservation program. "It is quite difficult trying to translate the 'western' notion of conservation, environment and respect for nature into an important political agenda item when the country is famine ridden and has a low life expectancy and high infant mortality. It also is rife with an AIDS epidemic of such proportions that the western countries have difficulty understanding just the magnitude of the problem," Andrew said.

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Hollamby earned a bachelor of arts degree in Southeast Asian modern history and Australian literature from Sydney University in 1983. He also holds a degree in veterinary science from Sydney.

He has worked in the area of wildlife medicine in Eastern Australia, the Perth Zoo, the Taronga Zoo of Sydney and the Auckland Zoo in New Zealand, and he was the senior veterinarian at the Currumbin Sanctuary located on the Gold Coast of Australia. In 1996 he provided the veterinary technical assistance to the Uganda Wildlife Centre in East Africa and is now at the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Fla.

"I'm sure that anyone with an interest in environmental, political and conservationist issues would enjoy Dr. Hollamby's presentation which will be enhanced with slides," Andrew said.